



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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State Health Commissioner

## Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services

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**TO:** All Virginia EMT-Instructors  
**FROM:** BLS Training Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** **EMS First Responder Bridge to EMT-Basic Option**

Following several trials in several different areas of Virginia, the state Human Resources and Training Committee has now approved the **EMS First Responder Bridge to EMT-Basic Option** for individuals seeking to move up to EMT-Basic certification.

This "Option" program is very different than the older First Responder Bridge Course which existed under the EMT-A curriculum. Rather than a separate course of instruction, the new **EMS First Responder Bridge to EMT-Basic Option** is a process for single certified EMS First Responders to attend any full EMT-Basic course.

EMS First Responders wishing to "Bridge" to EMT-Basic can enroll in any EMT-Basic course the same as any first time student. However, after the initial class session where you cover the course administration procedures, the EMS First Responder will only need to attend 80 hours of the 110 hour EMT-Basic course.

The enclosed outline shows the specific lessons the EMS First Responder **must attend** to "Bridge" to EMT-Basic. Where this outline indicates that a lesson from the EMT-Basic curriculum has been "Reduced", the "Bridge" student only needs to attend those portions of the lesson that are not included in the EMS First Responder course. **Example:** Lesson 5-3 **Musculoskeletal Care** that is normally 4 hours in length is "Reduced" to just 2 hours. Because the EMS First Responder course includes basic splinting, the "Bridge" student only needs to learn application of more advanced skills such as traction splinting and MAST/PASG. These students should be told when to come to class for coverage of this portion of the larger lesson and related practical sessions.

"Bridge" students are also required to complete the same 10 hours of Clinicals as other EMT-Basic students. (The same options for hospital and/or ambulance time apply.)

As the Lead EMT-Instructor, you are still expected to evaluate the "Bridge" student's knowledge of the entire EMT-Basic curriculum. You should require the "Bridge" students to take all of your written quizzes or tests, and participate in all practical skills evaluations. As with your other EMT-Basic students, a "Skills Performance Record" form is required to be completed for the "Bridge" students for ALL skills listed.

As always, you are responsible for determination of each student's qualifications for state examinations. When these "Bridge" students go to a state test site, they must present all of the same documents as other EMT-Basic students and they must take the full EMT written and practical exams. (Yes, they must retake the "BLS station" even though they took one for EMS First Responder.)

If you have questions regarding this **EMS First Responder Bridge to EMT-Basic Option**, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of EMS.



[www.vdh.state.va.us/oems](http://www.vdh.state.va.us/oems)

## EMS FIRST RESPONDER BRIDGE TO EMT-BASIC

A. Individuals accepted for completion of the First Responder Bridge program shall complete the following lessons of the EMT curriculum:

1-3. The Human Body	Full	2.5	
1-4. Baseline Vital Signs and SAMPLE History	Full	2.0	
1-5. Lifting and Moving Patients	Full	3.0	
<b>Module Sub-total:</b>			<b><u>7.5</u></b>
2-1. Airway	Full	4.0	
2-2. Practical Lab: Airway (Review)	Reduced to	1.0	
<b>Module Sub-total:</b>			<b><u>5.0</u></b>
3-3. Focused History and Physical Exam - Trauma	Full	4.0	
3-4. Focused History and Physical Exam - Medical	Full	2.0	
3-5. Detailed Physical Exam	Full	1.0	
3-6. On-Going Assessment	Full	1.0	
3-7. Communications	Full	1.0	
3-8. Documentation	Full	1.5	
3-9. Practical Lab: Patient Assessment	Reduced to	4.0	
<b>Module Sub-total:</b>			<b><u>14.5</u></b>
4-1. General Pharmacology	Full	1.0	
4-2. Respiratory Emergencies	Full	2.5	
4-3. Cardiovascular Emergencies and Automated External Defibrillation	Full	4.0	
4-4. Diabetes/Altered Mental Status	Full	2.0	
4-5. Allergies	Full	2.0	
4-6. Poisoning/Overdose	Full	2.0	
4-7. Environmental Emergencies	Full	2.0	
4-8. Behavioral Emergencies	Full	1.5	
4-9. Obstetrics/Gynecologic Emergencies	Full	2.0	
4-10. Practical Lab: Medical/Behavioral/OB/GYN	Reduced to	6.0	
<b>Module Sub-total:</b>			<b><u>25.0</u></b>
5-1. Bleeding and Shock	Full	2.0	
5-2. Soft Tissue Injuries	Full	2.0	
5-3. Musculoskeletal Care (Advanced Splinting)	Reduced to	2.0	
5-4. Injuries to the Head and Spine	Full	4.0	
5-5. Practical Lab: Trauma	Reduced to	4.0	
<b>Module Sub-total:</b>			<b><u>16.0</u></b>
6-1. Infants and Children(Review +High-Tech Kids)	Reduced to	1.0	
6-2. Practical Lab: Infants and Children	Reduced to	2.0	
<b>Module Sub-total:</b>			<b><u>3.0</u></b>
7-1. Ambulance Operations	Full	1.0	
7-3. Overviews - Triage / Mass Casualty Incidents	Full	3.0	
<b>Module Sub-total:</b>			<b><u>4.0</u></b>
Administration, Written and Practical Evaluations			<b><u>5.0</u></b>
Program Total Hours:			<b><u>80.0</u></b>

B. Individuals must also fulfill all of the course Instructor's requirements for written and practical evaluations for successful completion of the EMT course.

C. Individuals must complete all state clinical and EMT-Basic testing requirements.